(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have finalised the Competition Bill, 2001.

(b) The Government intendes to introduce the Competition Bill, 2001 during the Monsoon Session, 2001. The proposed Bill provides for repeal of MRTP Act, 1969. The salient features of the proposed Competition Bill are as under:—

The Bill mainly covers the following aspects:

(i) Prohibition of anti-competitive agreements;
(ii) Prohibition of abuse of dominance;
(iii) Regulation of Combinations (acquisitions, mergers and amalgamations of certain size);
(iv) Establishment of Competition Commission of India (CCI);
(v) Functions and powers of CCI.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in view of the policy shift from curbing monoplies to promoting competition, there is a need to repeal the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969. Hence, the proposed Competition Law to be brought in, aims at doing away with the rigidly structured MRTP Act. The Competition Law proposed is flexible and behaviour-oriented.

**Processing of voters identity cards**

873. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether voters identity cards are being continuously processed in all the States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, why in Delhi Zone-wise cards are not being prepared and issued to quicken the matter; and

(c) the target set to cover the whole of India with photo identity cards to all adults early?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. The programme of issuing voters' photo identity cards is being implemented in all States and Union territories with a few exceptions. The scheme has so far not been extended to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The work has also not started in Assam and Mizoram till now, although the programme has been extended to these States.

(b) After issuing revised guildlines in the matter in May, 2000, the work on implementation of voters' photo identity cards programme was started in right earnest in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The first phase of the campaign was started in December, 2000 at 28 centres for on-line issue of the identity cards to residual electors. Due to technical problems with computer software, programme launched on 11.12.2000 could not function satisfactorily and had to be suspended within a few days. Thereafter, a fresh tender has been floated by the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi for appointment of suitable vendors for the job. The work will be restarted shortly after finalisation of the tender.

(c) According to the Election Commission, the scheme of issuing photo identity cards to electors is not a project but a programme. The registration of electors is a continuous process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process). Therefore, the scheme of issuing identity cards to the registered electors is a continuous programme, as, every new elector in a constituency has also to be covered by the scheme.

**Mass computerisation and networking of Courts**

874. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged Government that the city of Hyderabad should be included alongwith four other metropolitan cities for mass computerisation and networking of Courts during the current year;

(b) if so, by when this request of the State Government is going to be acceded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?